

Bavarian News

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Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

August 23, 2006

Spouses may receive GI Bill benefits

Army News Service

The Army announced July 21 the implementation of a pilot program allowing Soldiers reenlisting in critical skills the ability to transfer Montgomery GI Bill benefits to their spouses.

Enlisted Soldiers who have completed at least six years of service, reenlist for a minimum of four years, qualify for a Selective Reenlistment

Bonus, and are entitled to a Zone B or Zone C bonus will have the option to transfer up to 18 of 36 months of their MGIB entitlement.

Soldiers can choose between a full SRB or a slightly reduced SRB plus the ability to transfer more than \$18,000 in benefits.

The FY 2006 basic MGIB monthly benefit for fulltime training is currently \$1,034. This benefit is also available

but prorated for part-time enrollment.

Soldiers who elected the Army College Fund as an enlistment option and/or have enrolled and paid toward the \$600 MGIB Additional Opportunity can include their expanded benefit (MGIB, ACF, and MGIB Additional Opportunity) in the transferability program.

The Army will study the results of the program with the possibility of

making it a permanent part of the Army's reenlistment policies.

"The Army continues to focus on and provide support to Soldiers' families because it is the right thing to do, and because we know that we recruit Soldiers, but retain families," said Maj. Gen. Sean Byrne, the director of Army Military Personnel Management.

Education benefits are a key

component of the incentive package used by the Army to attract and retain quality Soldiers. At the foundation of these benefits is the MGIB. The transferability of MGIB benefits is an additional lever being used to retain Soldiers with critical skills.

Soldiers interested in participating in the program should visit their Army retention career counselor for information.

2SCR receives first Stryker shipment



Photo by Nick D'amario

2SCR Soldiers offload the unit's first Strykers as they arrive at the Vilseck rail-head July 28. The vehicles arrived from the port in Bremerhaven, Germany.

by **JODI WARD**

Staff writer

Yet another long voyage has come to an end for the 60 Strykers vehicles that arrived at the Vilseck railhead July 28.

Despite the heavy rain and thunder, Soldiers from each unit of the 2d (Stryker) Cavalry Regiment were there to offload the armored combat vehicles.

The Strykers, which have already survived a deployment in Mosul, Iraq, from October 2004 to October 2005, were unloaded and moved to the motor pool where they will be checked for any damages accrued during their three-week journey from Fort Lewis, Washington.

Most of the unit's nearly 300 Strykers are yet to be received. The remaining vehicles are expected to arrive in Vilseck by mid-August.

"This is a conglomeration of all the Soldiers. Each squadron was tasked to provide so many Soldiers to support the rail-head," said 2SCR spokesman Maj. Jon Pendell. "Each unit has equipment coming in, so we are all working together, moving Strykers, Humvees, and the different types of equipment that we have."

The arrival of the unit's first vehicles marks a significant step in the Army's strategic

repositioning plan, which brought 2SCR to Vilseck. Strykers are much more flexible and more easily deployed than its counterparts.

Even at 19 tons, they are not as heavy as a tank or Bradley and can be airlifted to strategic locations around the globe as needed.

"Tanks are a great platform, a great weapon system, but in many ways they are not able to get into many of the places our Army would like," said 2SCR Executive Officer Maj. Bryan Denny. "Tanks just don't have what it takes in terms of deployability. Fuel consumption-wise, (Strykers) use a fraction of the gas and can go further."

"I was on a seven-day reconnaissance in the Al Jazeera desert (with Strykers), and that would have been impossible with a tank battalion. Just in terms of the deployability, it's unmatched," he said.

2/1 SCR Soldier Spc. Matthew Larson, who arrived with the advance party in mid-May feels settled now that the unit's mainstay has arrived.

"Now it feels like we're really here," he said. "With the vehicles here, and having around 50 percent of our people on the ground, we

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Unit's historic vehicles to be transferred to Vilseck museum

Story and photo by **JODI WARD**

Staff writer

The 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment received eight museum vehicles Aug. 4.

The historic pieces were shipped earlier this month from their previous home, the Fort Lewis Military Museum in Washington.

The shipment included two M3 Scout Cars, two M8 Greyhounds, one M151 Jeep, one M74 ARV, and two M24 Light Tanks, also known as Chaffees.

"The arrival of these vehicles symbolizes the 2nd SCR heritage moving into Vilseck," said unit spokesman Maj. Jon Pendell.

"We have a pretty sizable collection," he said. "The 2SCR is the longest serving Cavalry Regiment on active duty. We date back all the way to the Seminole Wars of 1836 and have the most battle streamers of any unit in the Army right now."

Pendell said the vehicle collection has moved with the unit where ever it has been located.

"When the regiment was last in Germany, the 2SCR pieces were on display at the James Reed Museum in Nurnberg," he said.

Where the collection will be house has yet to be decided, but Pendell said a 2SCR museum

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The M2 Light Tank, one of 2SCR's museum vehicles, was transported to Memorial Park Aug. 4.

RETIREE NEWS

Visiting retirees eligible for 'pink cards'

USAREUR Customs Executive Agency

Retired U.S. military members and their accompanying dependents can obtain a "pink card" that allows them to shop in post exchanges and commissaries in Germany.

Retirees can only get a pink card if they intend to reside in Germany or visit Germany for 30 days or longer.

Widows, widowers, and unaccompanied dependents of retired service members can get the pink card too but must be residents of Germany. Retired civilian employees, however, are not eligible for the pink card.

"To get a pink card, you must obtain a U.S. Forces Verification of Status of U.S. Forces Retired Personnel /Unaccompanied Dependents (AE Form 550-175K) from a military customs office," said Blanka Williams, chief of customer service at the HQUSAREUR Customs Executive Agency.

"Then take the Verification of Status form to the German customs office serving your area of residence, and you will receive a German customs certificate or pink card," she said.

"The pink card and your retiree ID card allow you to buy non-rationed items in exchanges and commissaries in Germany on a month-by-month basis," she said.

"Pink card holders must pay import tax (currently 13.5 percent) on the month's purchases. Only then will it be extended for another month."

To ensure your pink card remains valid, it is important to report to German Customs even if you do not make any purchases," said Williams, noting that German Customs can withdraw pink cards if recipients fail to meet their obligations.

"This system works well, but deliberate abuse could endanger a privilege enjoyed by many hundreds of retirees and their dependents," she said.

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German State Chancellery Chief tours garrison, holds press conference

Staff report

Bavarian State Minister Eberhard Sinner got a first-hand glimpse of U.S. Army training and military construction during an Aug. 7 visit to U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr.

During a working-lunch briefing, Sinner was informed about the mission of the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command by the JMTC Commander Brig. Gen. David Perkins. The JMTC is responsible for training U.S. Soldiers in Europe and for multinational exercises with soldiers of NATO partners and other partner states.

Sinner, who holds the position of

State Chancellery Chief, was briefed on the U.S. Forces plan through 2008 and the Army's efforts to station a brigade-sized element in Grafenwoehr.

USAG G Commander Col. Brian Boyle briefed the state minister on the status of the Netzaberg construction project, the garrison's newest community which will include a housing complex with 830 homes, kindergarten, community and youth centers.

Perkins and Boyle then accompanied Sinner on an aerial flyover of the Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr area and a windshield driving tour of the Netzaberg site.

During the windshield tour, Sinner viewed the Netzaberg construction, which is expected to be complete by 2008.

After the tour, he conducted a joint press conference with Perkins and Boyle for local German media.

Sinner lauded the U.S. military's 700 million euro investment in Grafenwoehr, calling it an "impressive" feat. Speaking about the realignment of U.S. bases in Europe, he said the Free State of Bavaria government is working on re-use efforts to ensure the military communities in Franconia are put to good use after U.S. Army units

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State Chancellery Chief Eberhard Sinner (right) talked to local media during an Aug. 7 press conference at the Netzaberg site.

Photo by
Adriane Foss

Q&A

What do you like most about your summer hire job?



Nate Apodaca
"I like that we're constantly busy and we're outside most of the day."



Christopher Redmond
"We're outside and we're not all cooped up in an office all day doing the same thing."



Alex Oronas
"I like that we have a lot of freedom, but we get the job done."



Chelsea Hodges
"I've learned not to throw garbage on the ground (because) someone else has to pick it up."



Kalani Atelin
"We are getting a lot of work experience we can use on our resume."



Loisann DeLass
"I like my job because I don't have to stay home all day."



Anthony Colantuono
"I get to talk on the radio sometimes."



Lisa Simpson
"We get to see all the new books and movies come in (at the library)."

Command Message

Thank you for your patience as we transition, grow, reorganize

Many of you may have noticed that we skipped the Aug. 9 edition of the *Bavarian News*. Our publisher, like many Bavarians, took their annual holiday and so we had a gap in our publication cycle. In the interim, the weather finally broke. It's beginning to feel like fall, and a great number of people have joined our community just in time for the more moderate temperatures.



Dental Support

A hot button issue that the community addresses regularly is dental support to our family members. I hope that everyone has maintained their family dental plan because our dental clinics will see family members.

Recently I met with the local dental clinic commander and his boss from Wuerzburg. Both fully support services to family members but also must operate under guidance from higher (Department of Defense) headquarters.

That guidance states that they must devote their service to active duty members until 95 percent of active duty personnel are Class 1 and 2. In addition they are supposed to limit dependent health care to 10 percent of their total workload – although they do more than that now. As of mid-July the active duty dental population that fell into the Class 1 and 2 categories was at 92 percent.

What That Means: Commanders, you must get your Soldiers to the dental clinic and ensure they qualify as Class 1 or 2. I am working with the dental command to get additional dentists on temporary orders to plus up our workforce so that they can see more Soldiers and family members.

Finally, we are working closely with the evacuation hospital in Wuerzburg and the area dental command to have both commands eventually move into our area. All of this is to provide more dental and medical support to our Soldiers and families. In the interim, particularly with the upcoming mission of 561 Medical (dental unit), we will be challenged, but together we can get through this and reach an endstate where more dental services are provided.

Bottom Line Up Front: You can make appointments for family members, but the actual appointment date won't be in the near term. It is likely that the appointment date will be several months out.

Growing East Camp

Most of you are experiencing the rapid growth of personnel in South Camp, also known as Rose Barracks or the Vilseck sub community.

At end state this fall, we will have about 8,000 personnel living and working in and around that area. Starting now and over the next several years, at least that many will be coming into the East Camp, Grafenwoehr area.

We are building a brigade area for at least six battalions. Recently we have been asked to explore housing even more units in our area.

In short, Graf-Vilseck is becoming the Eastern hub of USAREUR, and just about everyone wants to move here. I thank all of you for your patience as we build and move organizations around East Camp. I'd like to tell you that the building is done but ask for your continued patience as we finish the Military Construction builds in '07-'08 and move in units in the coming years.

Schools

The summer is truly over as school starts again next week. For a host of reasons we will continue to have a large number of families moving into our area probably until October.

This will have an impact on classroom size, student-to-teacher ratio, and bus routes. DoDDS and the garrison continue to work diligently to get students registered and adjust bus routes as required. You can help us by making the school office (to register your child) one of your first stops upon arrival.

The beginning of the school year means the days are growing shorter. With the number of children in and around our community, I ask everyone to be even more careful as you drive around. We just don't need a tragic accident caused by driver inattention.

As always, the garrison staff works to make this the best place to live and serve in Europe.

Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr

Guest Commentary

Freedom of speech a pressing issue

By IAN BOUDREAU

The press has been taking a rather brutal beating over the past year or so.

Of course, there's nothing new about journalists being reviled. In the spectrum of public esteem, reporters usually hover somewhere just above lawyers and rats—in other words, they're trusted only as far as they can be thrown.

But distrust of the press has recently hit a high point, thanks to the general perception that reporters, newspapers, and their publishers are only interested in covering the "bad news" in Iraq: car bombings, kidnappings, assassinations, and chaos. Where are the "good news" stories? Why are journalists so focused on the negative?

There are a couple reasons for the apparent negativity of the press when it comes to Iraq and the ongoing war. One is the age-old newspaper axiom: "If it bleeds, it leads." In other words, stories and photos depicting violence and chaos are the ones you'll see on the front page. It's not out of any sick morbidity on the part of the editorial staff—it's a marketing decision. People will pick up more papers if there's a gruesome photo on page one, above the fold.

As much as people complain about never seeing good news in the papers, it's a simple fact that good news stories do not grab much attention. Just ask an advertising representative.

A second reason is the fact that journalists, in general, are on the cynical side. The profession certainly attracts a specific character type, but it's also inherent to the role of the press as the "Fourth Estate" - the "watchdog" for the three branches of government. Editors won't just run a press release - from a company or from a mayor's office - without verifying the facts and getting a second (and perhaps a third and fourth) opinion.

Third, for journalists in Iraq, security has to

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Military Spouses

Tie that binds military spouses too strong, precious to lose



JACEY ECKHART
On the Homefront

I've been spending my morning thinking about my girlfriend Jeanne's breasts. I've seen her naked, so I know—they're very good breasts. Jeanne's own favorite story about her breasts is how her brother Mark came home from the Navy and noticed preteen Jeanne wearing a bra for the first time.

"You're too young to wear a bra," he jeered.

The next time he came home she'd burned the bra. It was the 70s. "You're too young to be going braless," Mark declared.

And that's all I've been thinking about this morning. That Jeanne is too young to wear a bra. Jeanne is too young to go braless. Jeanne at 45 is too young—much too young—to have breast cancer.

Because that's what she called to tell me. "I have cancer," she said. Just like that. "I have cancer."

Those were the first words I heard her say since September. I don't know how that happened. We used to talk on the phone every week. We talked every day—no, twice a day—sometimes three times a day, when we were both newlyweds and our husbands were doing back to back deployments.

Jeanne was my first grownup friend. The first friend I didn't feel like I had to compete with. The first friend who expected me to behave. Jeanne was the first woman I ever met

who really understood what it takes to be a good friend—and she taught me.

I always count that as one of the best lessons I ever learned in military life. Even though we've lived thousands of miles apart for the past 15 years, that friendship has meant that Jeanne was with me when my daughter was born. It meant that I had to be with her at her mother's funeral.

Now she is telling me that her cancer wasn't caught early despite her annual mammograms.

She says it has spread to her lymph nodes. She will have chemotherapy and radiation. She says she will need lots of phone calls.

And from a thousand miles away I only listen once again while Jeanne gathers her forces—her own husband and family, certainly.

But Jeanne draws the friends that she has made over her whole life—friends from work and from her daughter's soccer team. Friends from college and those military years.

She even has a friend she has known since toddlerhood. She gathers those connections like threads to spin a cord. Like cords to twist into a rope. Like a rope to tie a knot in and hang on.

That's what we military spouses need to know. Even though we make and lose track of friends at every duty station, when trouble comes we will still be able to reach back over the miles and gather those old friends back into the cord. Back into the rope. We can tie ourselves to each other firmly, gladly, back into the knot that binds and holds and sustains us all.

A military wife for 19 years, Jacey Eckhart is a syndicated columnist from *CinCHouse.com* (www.CinCHouse.com) and author of "The Homefront Club" (Naval Institute Press 2004).

“Those were the first words I heard her say since September.”

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr • Hohenfels • Vilseck

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CPAC gives services a personal touch

Army Benefits Center press release

The Department of the Army has announced that local Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers will return the “personal” element to certain benefit processes for Army civilian employees.

While the Army Benefits Center-Civilian, or ABC-C, remains the provider of benefits counseling and processing services, the personal assistance of your CPAC may help you feel more comfortable in managing your benefits.

The CPAC will continue to publicize benefits information and help you become familiar with the ABC-C’s *Employee Benefits Information System* and all it has to offer.

It is important to understand that the overall benefits processes will not change; you will still make benefits elections/changes via the ABC-C’s web and phone-based systems, and will continue to obtain all estimates and counseling from the ABC-C.

The CPAC can, however, extend a caring and familiar hand to the

processes mentioned below..

Retirement Assistance – You may obtain applications for retirement, Post-56 military deposits, civilian deposits/redeposits and beneficiary designation forms from the ABC-C web site at <https://www.abc.army.mil>; however, the CPAC will also provide these forms upon request.

Additionally, at the request of the employee, the CPAC can assist you in obtaining estimates from the ABC-C’s EBIS system and also review completed retirement and other application forms before they are sent to the ABC-C.

It is important for employees to submit their retirement packages to

the ABC-C within 90-120 days of the intended retirement date.

Sensitive Issues - It is critical that the CPAC is notified immediately (by the employee or his/her supervisor) of any of the events (in the gray box below) in order to determine any possible benefit entitlements and offer personal assistance. The CPAC will

then notify the ABC-C.

ABC-C fully supports the Department of the Army’s initiative to return the “personal” into “personnel” and staff members look forward to assisting you with your benefits matters.

The Army Benefits Center-Civilian, Fort Riley, Kansas can be reached at <https://www.abc.army.mil> or by telephone at Overseas Germany 0800-1010282.

Employee Inquiries

Your Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) staff is also available and prepared to address any general or specific human resources questions and problems you may have related to your pay, leave, performance ratings, awards, where to locate specific regulations, and various other general human resources information.

Don’t know how to reach us? Contact information is available on the “How to Contact Us” section of the CHRA Web page (<http://www.chra.eur.army.mil>), CPAC Homepages (click on Grafenwoehr).

Event	Potential Impact
Death of an employee	Beneficiary/survivor benefits or lump sum retirement benefits; unpaid compensation; death claims for FEGLI, TSP
Death of an Immediate Family Member	Benefits under FEGLI Option C – Family; change of FEGLI Options; FEHB coverage; beneficiary designations
Employee who appears to have a disabling condition expected to last one year in duration that has rendered the employee unable to remain in a productive capacity.	Eligibility for disability or discontinued service retirement
An accidental dismemberment	FEGLI benefits
Diagnosed as terminally ill with a life expectancy of nine months or less	FEGLI Living Benefits; beneficiary designations; disability retirement
Marriage, divorce, child turns age 22, employee in LWOP status	Permissible benefit changes, beneficiary changes, etc.

Opinion-Editorial continued

Welcome Vilseck High School Falcons!

bySELINA DORNHEIM & ANGELA ODOM
Vilseck High School Class of 2007

Welcome to Vilseck High School, Home of the Falcons! Go Maroon and Gold!

The 2006-2007 school year will be one of the most interesting in the school’s history. We will gain a large student population, and we would like to welcome all of you.

With so many changes and construction surrounding our school, we would like to give you some advice on how to approach your new environment.

Block scheduling

This school year we are starting block scheduling with “Gold” and “Maroon” days. On Gold Day, your first and second period classes will last 90 minutes each. Depending on your schedule, you will then go to lunch or third period. After lunch you go to your fourth period class.

On Maroon Day, you will begin the school day by attending what is listed as your fifth and sixth period classes for 90 minutes each. After these classes, you will then go to lunch or what is listed as your third period class, depending on your schedule. After lunch, you will go to your seventh period class.

Gold and Maroon days are rotated throughout the week. Sound confusing? It’s not as complicated as it seems, and you will get the hang of it in no time.

As you may already know, the school is being remodeled. Due to the construction, we have fewer classrooms, but we expect to move back into our newly remodel rooms in February. All renovations should be complete by the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

Keeping you safe

Vilseck High School has several rules to keep the students at our school safe.

You are not permitted to bring weapons such as knives, locks, spikes, or anything that can be used as a weapon. Electronic devices are prohibited during school hours. If you would like to use your cell phone, use it before

or after school or during lunch, and only use it outside of the building. If you are caught using electronic devices during school hours, the device will be confiscated and held until the end of the school year or until a parent can pick it up.

Physical and verbal harassment is not an option at this school. If you decide to disobey these rules, the consequences include suspension or expulsion. You can find out more information about this in the school handbook at the Falcon homepage: <http://www.vils-hs.eu.dodea.edu/>.

Fun, and more fun

Vilseck High offers a wide variety of student activities, ranging from academics to athletics. Some activities are as follows:

Sports—basketball, cheerleading, football, baseball, soccer, tennis, cross country, volleyball, golf, wrestling, track, and rifle and drill team.

Clubs—student council, chess, yearbook, drama, Musical Honor Society (Tri M), chorus, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), art, Student to Student(S2S), and karate.

In addition to the school activities, the community teen centers in Vilseck and Grafenwoehr offer many field trips year-round. They include visits to amusement parks, castles, bowling, and off-post swimming pools.

The teen centers are open everyday after school so you can go there to hang out with your friends. A Teens Night Out is hosted the first Saturday of every month. This is a great opportunity to go socialize with friends, listen to music, dance, and play pool. To attend the teen center, events, register with your local Child and Youth Services.

Are you searching for a group where you can fit in? Want to explore the sights of Europe? USA Girl/Boy Scouts and Adventure Club Overseas are open to girls and boys ages 5-17. You meet with other pupils in your age group with some of the same interests at different times and days of the week in our hut on post.

The girls and boys in the troop plan and participate in activities, field trips, and service projects. You can join at anytime during the year.

Need an outlet? Club Beyond is another club you can join. A Military Community Youth Ministries, Club Beyond is a youth outreach program of the local chapel community. Members meet every week and play games, sing songs, and provide talks or open discussion.

The purpose of the meetings is to break down any barriers that might be keeping relationships from being built. Club Beyond also offers fun activities such as field trips, barbecues, and much more.

The great outdoors

For the outdoor enthusiast, there is the Outdoor Recreation Center. They also offer a variety of trips, including snowboarding, skiing, mountaineering, rock-climbing, ice skating, canoeing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, and scuba classes.

In addition to the trips, ODR offers rental equipment (party areas, lodges, paddle boats, camping gear, windsurfing and paragliding gear, canoes, and ice skates).

Not only will they get you there with proper equipment, but they’ll also give you beginners to advanced-level instructions on the sport and gear.

Unit and group tours can be arranged, and boat rental is available for use at Big Mike Lake. Fishing permits and travel camps for trailer or tent camping (2-3 bedroom cabins) is available. If you like to be outdoors, visit ODR. The possibilities are endless.

Even though you are far from home in a different country, it won’t take long until you feel at home again. Living in Germany is an experience that many people will never know, and we recommend that you take advantage of the vast opportunities that are available.

We hope that you find this information helpful and it provides you with a positive outlook on your new community. We hope you enjoy your time in Germany. Welcome!

USAREUR COMMAND MESSAGE

Helpful hi-tech devices can cause security breeches

Our ability to protect sensitive information is vital to sustaining our warfighting capability. Evolving technology and the growing use of wireless devices, however, put this information at risk. We must always protect this information from being compromised.

Many of us use cell phones, BlackBerries, and other types of personal electronic devices to maintain situational awareness.

Although these devices are very helpful, there are vulnerabilities associated with their use.

We must be aware of the vulnerabilities and apply appropriate operations security countermeasures to mitigate the risk.

Even when the user turns it off, a wireless device can be remotely turned on to eavesdrop and retransmit conversations, typically within 20 feet of the device.

Because there are no external indications of active use, the user will not know that the device has been turned on.

To prevent the compromise of sensitive information, personnel will not carry cell phones, BlackBerries, or PEDs that contain a cell phone (wireless devices) into sensitive areas, even when they are turned off, without the approval of an intelligence community colonel, GS-14, or higher.

A sensitive area is any area where classified or unclassified sensitive information is discussed. These include but are not limited to sensitive compartmented information facilities (also referred to as SCIFs), offices with open storage, conference rooms, and other locations so designated by the unit commander or staff principal.

In accordance with the policy in Army in Europe Command Policy Letter 33, commanders and staff principals will—

■ Survey and designate the sensitive areas under their jurisdiction. Visible signs must be placed at the entrances to these areas.

■ Enforce the prohibition of cell phones, BlackBerries, and similar devices in sensitive areas.

■ Provide an appropriate storage facility near the entrances to sensitive areas to temporarily store wireless devices.

■ Take advantage of cell-phone blocker technology to protect sensitive areas as prescribed by AE Supplement 1 to AR 25-1, paragraph E-11 (Spectrum Management).



Gen. David McKiernan
Commander,
U. S. Army Europe

Journalists see world through a very different lens

Continued From Page 2

be an almost neurotic obsession. For those who want to stray from the strictly-delineated paths set out for them by their host units, fears of abduction, decapitation, dismemberment, and all manner of death must preoccupy a significant majority of their thoughts. Reporters don’t generally carry weapons, and any armor they have is dependent on their bureau’s budget, or the generosity of their military hosts. And not one journalist currently in Iraq has forgotten what happened to Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, who was murdered by his kidnappers in Pakistan Jan. 29, 2002.

It’s a small wonder, then, that stories relating to security concerns are so forthcoming from the war zone - those are the stories that journalists see are affecting their lives, and the

lives of the Iraqi civilians around them.

Furthermore, ask any reporter and chances are they won’t have any special axe to grind against the military. Jeffrey Gettleman, who wrote for the New York Times in Iraq, spoke at this year’s Armor Symposium on Fort Knox.

He said he was reluctant to send copy back to his bureau that might reflect negatively on the Marine unit he was embedded with, since those Marines were the ones providing him with food, shelter, and protection from the enemy.

Still, it’s true that reporters see the world through a different lens than most Soldiers do. Does that mean the press should be barred from areas where combat operations are ongoing? I don’t think so.

Since history will ultimately measure our success in Iraq by how well the Iraqis are able to maintain democracy and freedom, it seems

right that the United States should set a good example by adhering to our own Constitutional set of rules.

The press, the framers of that historic document thought, was important enough to merit protection in the Constitution’s very first amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for redress of grievances.”

Ian Boudreau is a staff writer and former sports editor at Fort Knox’s *The Turret* newspaper. A graduate of the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md., he is also the former editor of *The Indianhead*, the 2nd Infantry Division newspaper at Camp Red Cloud, Korea.

Children of DoD contractors eligible for DoDDS-E schools on space-guaranteed basis

DoDDS-E news release

The Department of Defense Education Activity announced the cancellation Aug. 11 of Department of Defense Regulation 1342.13 and its replacement by a DoDEA Regulation of the same number.

This action clears the way for the official adaptation of changes to eligibility codes that will greatly expand access to its schools for the children of DoD contractors and civilian employees across Europe.

Under the new guidelines, which were announced in March of this year, children of DoD contractors will be eligible to attend DoDDS-Europe schools on a space-

guaranteed, tuition-paying basis.

The children of full-time, locally hired NAF and AF employees, who are U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals, will be eligible to attend DoDDS-E schools on a space-required, tuition-free basis.

The expanded classification codes include the children of full-time local hires who work for the U.S. government in Europe without housing and or transportation agreements.

The policy change allows DoDDS-Europe schools to expand support to the children of civilians whose contributions have grown increasingly critical to the nation's military missions.

The cancellation of the DoD regulation and its replacement with DoDEA Regulation 1342.13 is the result of a two-year process of negotiation for the expansion of eligibility by the Dependents Education Council.

The DEC is a body of senior military leaders who advocate for educational services for military dependents in conjunction with DoDDS-E and DoDEA officials.

DoDEA Regulation 1342.13 is on the Web at <http://www.eu.dodea.edu/enroll.htm>.

DoDDS-E officials began encouraging parents whose children would become eligible under the new policy to pre-register them for the

2006-2007 school year beginning this past spring.

Officials reiterated their call for parents who have not yet done so to register their children either online or at their local school for the term which begins Monday.

The sponsors of children affected by the eligibility change must be U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals who are full-time employees.

Contractors whose children will qualify under the change must make available copies of either the Logistical Support Section of the contract that authorizes dependent education on a tuition-paying basis, the Technical Expert Accreditation Status awarded to the sponsor, the

DD-1172-2 Common Access Identification Card Application, or the contractor's or contractor's spouse's ID cards to DoDDS-E staff at the time of enrollment.

Employment and dependency status verification must be confirmed at the start of every school year for both AF and NAF civilians by their servicing Civilian Personnel/Human Resource Office to qualify.

Parents should consult the registrar at their community school for guidance in determining their eligibility.

Enrollment, eligibility and tuition related inquiries can also be made via e-mail to DoDDS-E.Enrollment@eu.dodea.edu.

Some DoD personnel may get erroneously charged leave back

CPAC news release

As a result of the Decision in *Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice*, 336 F.3d 1332 (Fed Cir. 2003), and two subsequent *Butterbaugh*-related decisions issued by the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense issued a Memorandum, dated June 7 2006.

This memorandum provides that DoD will now process administrative claims for annual leave for which employees were erroneously charged, back to Oct. 1, 1980.

The memorandum has been posted to the CPMS Web site and may be accessed at www.cpms.osd.mil.

This memorandum supercedes a previous memorandum, dated April 13, 2005, which provided information in regards to the possible impact of *Butterbaugh* on individuals who were Reservists or members of the National Guard and who may have been improperly charged military leave.

Under erroneous prior policy, federal agencies charged employees leave for every day they were attending reserve training, including non-workdays.

Instead of allowing 15 workdays of military leave for reserve training each year, agencies habitually charged 15 calendar days (as was the practice at the time).

As a result, some employees exhausted their 15 days of leave authorized by 5 U.S.C. 6323(A) for

reserve training and had to use annual leave or leave without pay for time spent away from their jobs attending reserve training.

Current and former DoD appropriated fund employees, who (1) were charged military leave while they were appropriated fund employees, and (2) believe they have valid leave claims under *Butterbaugh*, may file such claims with the Federal Agency that charged them leave.

Claims should be mailed to the DFAS Payroll Office, P.O. Box 33717, Pensacola, FL, 32508-3717.

The claim should identify the current servicing payroll office and specify each non-workday for which the claimant was charged military leave.

Supporting documentation should also include a certificate of attendance for each period of active duty.

Current or former nonappropriated fund employees who: (1) were charged military leave, and (2) believe they

have valid claims under *Butterbaugh*, may file claims for military leave under procedures established by the nonappropriated fund instrumentality responsible for leave charges.

For more information about procedures for filing a claim under the *Butterbaugh* decision, contact your CPAC servicing specialist.

The details

Mail your claim to the DFAS Payroll Office, P.O. Box 33717, Pensacola, FL, 32508-3717

DoD will process claims for erroneously charged annual leave back to October 1980.

This memo supercedes a previous memo, dated April 13, 2005, regarding reserve Soldiers.



Nicholas Serrano has a "blast" with the help of Norbert Ackermann of the Grafenwoehr Fire Dept. Aug. 10. The Fun Day '06 events marked the end of the summer reading program for the Graf Library.

Photo by Sue Bluhm

Financial questions answered for military families at CinCHouse.com

by SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY
American Forces Press Service

Service members and their family members with financial questions need look no further for the answers than a new column on the CinCHouse Web site, www.cinchouse.com.

CinCHouse and the Military Officers Association of America recently launched a new advice column for young military families addressing questions about pay and benefits, Meredith Leyva, CinCHouse founder, said.

"This is a terrific opportunity for our (Web site) visitors, who represent the youngest and newest members of the military community, to get solid advice from a trusted source," said Leyva. "It's wonderful to have experts from (the association) to get them the straight scoop and clarify a

"It's wonderful to have experts to get them the straight scoop and clarify ... myths."

Meredith Leyva
CinCHouse founder

lot of myths."

The Military Officers Association of America, a nonprofit organization, is the leading voice on compensation and benefit matters for members of the military community, according to the association's Web site.

CinCHouse is a nonprofit organization of military wives that provides military wives and women in the military advice on managing

everyday life, according to the organization's Web site.

The group is a member of the Defense Department's America Supports You program, which highlights grassroots and corporate support for U.S. military members and their families.

A team of association experts will take questions from a designated discussion forum on the CinCHouse Web site and via e-mail, said Leyva.

The every-Monday column will provide detailed answers to those questions.

Additionally, both questions and answers will appear on CinCHouse Web site discussion forums, said Leyva.

She said she hopes this will generate additional discussion of the topic as well as follow-up questions.

USAREUR: The joke is over for personnel making false bomb threats

by Sgt. AIMEE MILLHAM
USAREUR Public Affairs

U.S. Army, Europe leaders are making it crystal clear that people making fake bomb threats will be punished.

"Folks need to know this is not funny; it wastes time and money," said Lt. Col. Carol McKinney with the U. S. Army, Europe provost marshal office.

Service members who pull such stunts will be charged with communicating a threat or bomb threat, under Article 134 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice, and could face further

punishment by individual commanders, she said.

And civilians will be charged by host nation police with communicating a threat, said McKinney.

Plus, all persons involved will be taken into custody.

"This is not a (sudden) crackdown," McKinney said. "It's always been taken seriously."

The most recent incident occurred July 27 in Heidelberg during a force protection drill, which confused some participants into thinking a fake bomb threat was part of an exercise.

It wasn't, and the perpetrator was detained.

With apprehension comes a price.

Offenders in Germany, for example, can expect to pay at least 2,000 euros – the fine emergency responders charge when answering self-caused emergencies, McKinney said.

Additionally, civilians can be barred from the military installation and returned stateside.

And if the offender is a military family member, he or she also can be returned stateside.

Of the last four incidents in Heidelberg, one culprit was a Soldier and the others were family members or civilian employees, said McKinney, adding that diversity among the offenders makes it even harder to decipher why people commit

such acts.

"It seems people just do it to do it," McKinney said.

What they do have in common, she noted, "is wasting (responders') time, keeping them from other real important emergencies."

The fake bomb threat is a recurring trend in military installations worldwide. Based on recent talks with the Army's Force Protection Anti-Terrorism Organization, McKinney said such incidents are on the increase in the States.

No matter where and how often bomb threats occur, authorities take it seriously and will charge offenders accordingly, he said.

Don't forget to tell them you read it in the Bavarian News!

Read it online at www.grafenwoehr.army.mil/sites/news/bn_online.asp. To place a *free* classified ad, visit www.milcom.de.

Volksfest 2006

The 2006 German-American Volksfest was held at Garrison Grafenwoehr's Camp Kasserine Aug. 4-6. The multi-cultural event featured live entertainment, carnival rides, games, and food. Each day of celebration saw large crowds of visitors from the military and civilian communities despite occasional rain showers.

♦ Photos by Sue Bluhm ♦



Adults and kids enjoyed high-flying rides, bumper cars, and many other traditional fair attractions.



Typical German and traditional American and Asian foods were served up by vendors throughout the fest grounds.



U.S. and German military vehicles displays allowed visitors an up-close view of equipment.



Various prizes were given to visitors who tried their hands at the festival games.



USAG G's HHC members manned one of many unit/group booths during the event.

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Liquids not allowed in carry-ons

U.S. Transportation Security Administration, Dept. of Homeland Security

Due to enhanced security measures liquids, gels, lotions and other items of similar consistency will not be permitted in carry-on baggage.

These types of items must be packed in your checked baggage.

Additionally, liquids, gels and lotions purchased beyond the checkpoint but must be disposed of before boarding the aircraft.

To ensure the health and welfare of certain air travelers the following items are permitted:

- Small amounts of baby formula and breast milk if a baby or small child is traveling

- Liquid prescription medicine with a name that matches the passenger's ticket

- Up to 8 oz. of liquid or gel low blood sugar treatment

- Up to 4 oz. of essential non-prescription liquid medications

- Gel-filled bras and similar prosthetics worn for **medical reasons**

You are permitted to bring solid cosmetics and personal hygiene items as such lipstick, lip balm, and similar solids. Please remember these items must be solid and not liquid, gel or aerosol.

Only the items mentioned above are permitted in your carry-on bags. If you have questions or doubts on certain items, place those in your checked baggage.

We encourage everyone to pack gel-filled bras in their checked baggage.

We recognize the sensitivity of the issue and we are reaching out to key women's medical associations to assist passengers and make information available to them while respecting their privacy.

Passengers with medical gel prosthetics will be permitted through the security checkpoint.

Please keep in mind, that while we can not provide an exhaustive list of items that covering all eventualities, all liquids, gels, or aerosols of any kind are prohibited at security checkpoints, in airport sterile areas, and aboard aircraft. You can pack these items in your checked baggage.

We ask for your cooperation in the screening process by being prepared before you arrive.

We also ask that you follow the guidelines above and try not to over-think these guidelines.

Please pack liquids, gels, and aerosols in your checked baggage even if you do not normally check a bag.

In addition to liquids, gels, and aerosols, numerous other potentially dangerous items are not permitted in carry-on baggage.

We strongly encourage travelers to read more about previously prohibited items to avoid complications during screening:

- Learn more about our new security procedures (<http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/assistant/new-procedures.shtm>)

- Learn more about the threat level change (<http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/threat-change.shtm>)

Prohibited Items

To help you understand what you should or should not bring in your carry-on baggage, we have provided the following list of common items you may be traveling with.

Makeup and Personal Items

- Aerosol spray bottles and cans
- All creams and lotions including Neosporin or first-aid creams and ointments, topical or rash creams and ointments, suntan lotions, moisturizers, etc.

- Bug and mosquito sprays and repellents

- Eye drops (*see exceptions* **)

- Deodorants made of gel or aerosol

- Hair styling gels and spray of all kinds including aerosol

- Hair straightener or detangler

- Lip gels such as Carmex or Blistex and liquid lip glosses or other liquids for lips

- Liquid bubble bath including gel or liquid filled bubble bath balls or bath oils or moisturizers

- Liquid foundations and liquid gel or spray perfumes or colognes

- Liquid sanitizers and liquid soaps

- Liquid mascara and make up removers or facial cleansers

- Non-prescription liquid or gel medicines like cough syrup and gel cap type pills (*Read our Web section on Medications*)

- Mouthwash, nail polish and removers

- Saline solution (*see the exceptions* **)

- Shampoos, conditioners, and toothpaste

Food and Drinks

- All beverages
- Cheese in pressurized containers

- Duty free alcohol and other items (*Read our Duty Web section*)

- Gel-based sports supplements

- Jellos, pudding, whipped cream, yogurt or gel-like food substances

Other Items

- Gel-type candles
- Gel shoe inserts (*See exceptions below* **)

- Lighters (*Read our Web section on lighters and matches*)

Other Important Travel Tips

** Exceptions

Under certain circumstances, some items from the list above are permitted.

To help you understand more about these items and the circumstances under which they are permitted please read below.

**** Eye drops** - You are allowed to carry up to 4 oz. with you. Volumes greater than 4 oz., are only permitted in your checked baggage.

**** Gel shoe inserts** - Gel shoe inserts are not permitted, but shoes constructed with gel heels are allowed and must be removed and screened.

**** Prescription and non-prescription medications and other medical needs**

**** Saline solution** - You are allowed to carry up to 4 oz., of eye drops with you. Volumes greater than 4 oz., are only permitted in your checked baggage.

PX delivers yearlong back-to-school savings, price matching

Army & Air Force Exchange Service

Parents of school-age children are expected to shell out an average of \$527 this summer on back-to-school items, up from last year's average of \$444, according to a recent National Retail Federation study.

Parents in the handful of U.S. states that offer select "tax holidays" are often forced to fight crowds of last-minute shoppers or resort to driving all over town to find the best deals on clothes, office supplies, shoes and sporting goods.

Military families are entitled to tax-free shopping every day of the year at their BX/PX.

Should AAFES not offer the lowest price on an item, the BX/PX will match competitors' current, local price on any identical stock assortment.

"One only has to bring in a local newspaper advertisement or flyer and after euro-to-dollar conversion, if their price is lower, we will match it on the spot," said Chris Litch, the U.S. Army Garrison PX visual merchandising manager.

In addition to forgoing sales tax, authorized Army and Air Force Exchange Service customers enjoy competitively low prices that average

beaten path



The Michelfeld church was originally a Benedictine monastery. Dedicated to St. Michael and St. John the Evangelist, it was founded it 1119.

Michelfeld is a neighboring city that is easy to overlook, hard to forget once you’ve been there

Story and photos by SUE BLUHM
Special to the Bavarian News

Michelfeld. Many motorists may recognize the name when driving down 470 going toward Autobahn 9.

For most people it is just another small German town off the beaten path.

However, within its borders lies a gleaming gem, and it is only a 20-minutes drive from Grafenwoehr.

On the city’s main street, nestled between two restaurants, sits a tall brick tower over an archway.

Following the gravel road beneath, you will pass through another arch and enter a spacious courtyard with impeccably kept grounds and buildings.

Here is where Michelfeld’s oft-overlooked gem sits.

Rising high above an elaborate doorway is the tower of the town’s church. Adjoining the church is a building owned by the Regens Wagner Foundation.

Like many towns and cities throughout Europe, Michelfeld grew and prospered around its church.

This particular church was originally a monastery that was established on May 6, 1119 by the Bishop of Bamberg and ran by the Convent of the Benediktiner.

In 1776 the Asam brothers who had studied painting and decorative techniques in Rome transformed the interior of the church into an elaborate work of art.

Their incredible murals, faux finishes, and plaster relieves are what we see today.

Other examples of their artistry can be

found in the Auerbach and Amberg churches.

Over the years the church grounds were built upon to provide living quarters and working areas for the church and the surrounding community. In 1885 Regens Johann Wagner (1807-1886) established the Regens Wagner Foundation.

It initially helped deaf and mute girls gain an education and trade. Today the foundation cares for and supports mentally and physically challenged adults.

The last 120 years has seen the Regens Wagner Foundation grow considerably and go through many changes.

Apart from the church, which does not belong to the foundation, the buildings in the courtyard are only a small part of a vast complex that the foundation runs.

It operates many cottage-style industries to include embroidery, tailoring, metal work, carpentry, and a large

working farm.

Many of the foundation’s residents work within the industries and the farm.

On July 13, Grafenwoehr’s Library and ITR hosted a trip to Michelfeld. Participants were given a guided tour of the church and Regens Wagner Foundation complex.

The main building in the courtyard houses the embroidery workshop. Here the skills of

some of the residents can be seen.

The embroiderers’ intricate designs are produced primarily by hand on large banners. They include decorative wall hangings and altar robes. Smaller general pieces include tablecloths, napkins, and pillow covers, which are for sale to the general public.

The highlight of the trip, which coincided with the Library’s Summer Reading Program

“Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales”, was a visit to the farm after a picnic lunch.

Housing 120 cows, 300 pigs, 300 chickens, and a couple of horses, the farm covers a large area of the property.

Each child was given the chance to ride one of the horses in a closed-off section of the barn. For several of the children, the farm

visit was a first-time experience. Even those who had never been around farm animals were not swayed from picking up handfuls of hay and offering it to the animals.

Getting off the beaten path and exploring the small towns and villages around Germany, whether it is with

the Library, ITR, or on your own, is a great experience. It offers a wealth of history and day of fun that you might have ordinarily driven past on your way to the Autobahn.



Hand-embroidered items are on display and for sale to the public.



The church ceiling was painted by the Asam brothers in 1776.



Young visitors enjoyed feeding livestock at the Michelfeld farm.



The spacious courtyard grounds were built up over the years for living space and working quarters.



The church altar.



A variety of handmade items are on display and for sale. Visitors can view workers as they embroider the items.

What’s Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

Pay attention to construction signs for new traffic routes

Due to ongoing construction at Grafenwoehr, motorists are asked to pay attention to road detour and closure signs for safe driving!

Motorists can find more information, including maps with detailed traffic flow patterns, in the garrison weekly e-newsletter and on the Command Information Channel.

Place your free ad in the Bavarian News online

All valid ID cardholders can place free ads in the Bavarian News. Fill out the form at <http://www.rlehner.de/trainingtimes/freeclass.htm>.

Vilseck Post Exchange, shoppette has new hours

Effective immediately, the following hours are in effect:

Rose Barracks Shoppette: Monday to Saturday from 5:30 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Main Exchange: Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. , and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MCSS: Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. , and closed on Sunday,

Concession Mall: Hours vary from store to store. See vendor for hours.

Children’s event tomorrow at Vilseck Schwimmbad

Open to children of all ages. A Youth-to-Youth German-American event featuring lots of fun and games will be held at the Vilseck Schwimmbad from 1-4 p.m tomorrow.

American children have the opportunity to get together with the German children living in the same area. “Youth to Youth” gives both German and American children the opportunity to learn from and better understand each other. Language differences will be no problem during these activities.

Christian home educators support group meets in Graf

Grafenwoehr Garrison Christian Home Educators Support Group meets the second Thursday of each month at the Grafenwoehr Post Library between 6 and 8 pm.

Come and receive support, share resources, knowledge, and your wisdom. For more information, contact Dawn Sovinsky at CIV 09608-923-733 or terry.dawn@asamnet.de

Vilseck Fitness Center hours

In order to support the enhanced needs of the increasing Vilseck troop population, the hours of the fitness center are changed as follows:

Monday - Friday, 5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Final VA Briefing for 2006

The final VA Briefing for Vilseck-Grafenwoehr is scheduled Sept. 13. Anyone separating from the Army between now and February should attend one of these informative events.

Important topics, such as VA Home Loan Guarantee, Montgomery GI Bill, Disability Ratings, and more, will be discussed.

Call 476-2055 to reserve a seat.

Free civilian training opportunities available

The following communication skills course is free and designed for you.

Effective Briefing Techniques, Monday - Aug. 31 at Grafenwoehr

Tuition and course material will be funded through CHRA-E, HRDD. Costs for per diem or TDY will be at the expense of the employee’s unit.

To apply, www.chra.eur.army.mil, click on Training and Development, then on HRDD Courses in Europe, then on Course Schedule. You must create a profile in CHRTAS before registering.

Got questions? Ask AAFES, DECA experts on the radio

AAFES General Manager Matt Mennona and Commissary Manager Jimmie Holzhauser will be on-hand in

the AFN-Bavaria studio to take your questions about their community operations Sept. 13 from 9-10 a.m. on AM 1107.

You can also pre-position questions to the AAFES and DeCA experts by going to <http://www.afneurope.net/bavaria/Article.asp?id=257246>

You will be directed to a « Submit a Question » link which will open an Outlook e-mail window on your screen addressed to jose.colon@afne.army.mil

The number to call on Sept. 13 is DSN 476-3176 or CIV 09662-83-3176.

New Parent Support group changes playgroup hours

At Grafenwoehr: Caterpillars and Butterflies meet at the Field House every Thursday morning from 10-1130 a.m.. Registration is not required. For children ages birth up to 4 years old.

At Vilseck: Caterpillars and Butterflies meet every Wednesday morning from 9:30-11 a.m. at the cChapel nursery. Registration is not required; also for children from birth to age 4 years old.

For more info, call DSN 476-2650.

Vilseck Family Readiness Center open daily

Family members from 2SCR, deployed units and Soldiers TDY here can now use the FRC to e-mail their loved ones back home or downrange. The center will be open from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. daily.

Send up to five minutes of streaming video to loved ones, morale calls down range, VTC by appointment, FRG meeting room and more.

Location: Bldg. 273, Vilseck

Phone: DSN 476-3940 or CIV 09662-83-3940.

Clinic Closures/Hours

The **Vilseck Health Clinic** will be closed Friday due to Unit Organizational Day. The **Graf Health Clinic** will be open 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Friday.

For emergencies, call the MP station at 114 or DSN 476-2890/2490.

Looking for a place to conduct training/meetings?

Why not contact the Vilseck Digital Training Facility?

- Fully equipped classrooms with video teletraining capabilities
- Distance learning available through CATC
- Self paced learning through the Army correspondence course program
- Computer Based Learning
- Video Media
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Customized Training Support

For more information or to make a request, call Facility Manager Tove Thompson at DSN 476-3578, CI 09662-83-3578, or e-mail tove.f.thompson@us.army.mil.

Super summer sale at Grafenwoehr Thirft Shop

A summer clothing sale will be held from Sept. 5-15. All Thrift Shop Property (adult and children clothing, excluding infant’s) will be liquidated for the price of \$1 each!

The Graf Thrift shop, Bldg. 533, is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

For more information, call 475-6181.

New Saturday Thrift Shop hours at Grafenwoehr

The Grafenwoehr Thrift Shop is now open on Saturdays!

Beginning Sept. 9, the shop will be open on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with consignments taken from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Check us out for all your household and clothing needs! For more information, call 475-6181.

Vilseck main road closed 6:30 – 7:30 a.m.

Vilseck’s main road (starting at the library and ending at Bldg. 700 will be closed for PT between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. through Sept. 11 as a test.

Graf Library tea party honors Women’s Equality

In celebration of Women’s Equality Day, you are invited to the Graf Library’s Tea Cup Tales Tea Party tomorrow 2-4 p.m. Bring your tea cups

and tell of a woman past or present that has had an influence on you and in your life.

Ms. Sieglinde Schedl will be present to register attendees to vote in state and federal elections.

Enjoy Hahnbach’s Huge Corn Maze - Maislabyrinth

Visit the Corn Maze in Hahnbach through Sept.10. Entrance fee is € 2,50 for adults and € 1,50 for children. For more information, visit www.maislabyrinth.de and <http://www.maislabyrinth-hahnbach.de/>.

In Hahnbach, you can visit the maze daily from 2 to 9 p.m. You can also join some of the scheduled special events.

Kemnath Countryfest scheduled Oct. 28

The line dance group “The Flying Boots” presents Doug Adkins from Montana and his Band “Stars and Bars” at the Mehrzweckhalle Kemnath Countryfest Oct. 28, beginning at 8 p.m.

Come listen and dance to live country music, and watch performances Visit <http://www.flyingboots.de>

Spouses’ clubs host Crown Jewel Bazaar Oct. 27-29

The Vilseck and Grafenwoehr Community and Spouses’ Clubs are hosting their popular annual event featuring dozens of Europe’s finest vendors Oct. 27-29. Mark these dates on your calendar and stay tuned for more information (i.e., location, vendor wares, and much more).

Our Lady of the Woods & Wilderness mass set Sunday

Our Lady of the Woods & Wilderness Catholic Community, starts the 11 a.m. outside mass (Little Mike Lake, Vilseck), followed by a picnic.

No mass will be conducted at the Vilseck and Grafenwoehr Chapel.

CFC unit rep training scheduled Tuesday

We will be hosting a special training session for all CFC unit representatives on Tuesday at 10 a.m. in Grafenwoehr’s Camp Aachen at Bldg.1484.

Training will last approximately one and a half hours. CFC Campaign runs Oct. 2 -Dec. 1.

The CFC kick-off will take place in Bldg. 244 on Oct. 2 (TBD). Contact Christine Nunez at DSN 475-8432 or e-mail Christine.nunez@us.army.mil.

CWOC Women’s Brown Bag Luncheon set Aug. 30

The Catholic Women of the Chapel will have social luncheon beginning at noon in the Vilseck Chapel Fellowship Hall. For more info, call DSN 476-3696.

Achtung! Respect “Quiet Time” in Germany

QUIET TIME (Ruhezeit): Quiet time is from 10 p.m. until 7 a.m. and all day Sundays and holidays.

House and garden appliances and machinery are off limits after 8. p.m. No

midnight clothes washing or Sunday lawn mowing.

PARTIES: Generally you are allowed to make noise **outside until 10 p.m.** Again, it may not be “excessive.”

The “rubber-rulebook” also says you may have bigger parties up to four times a year. If you’re planning a major bash, perhaps it would be a good idea to tell the neighbors ahead of time, or better yet, invite them too.

Bank Hours changed

The Grafenwoehr Community Bank will change operating hours due to Staff Training: Sept. 13 - open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

EUCOM urges travelers to monitor advisories on Web

U.S. European Command is urging U.S. military travelers with planned travel through the United Kingdom to monitor the U.K.’s Department of Transport Web site, www.dft.gov.uk, for travel advisories and restrictions.

Travelers can expect delays in commercial travel through other European cities as well. All U.S. military personnel in Europe are reminded to be watchful of suspicious activity and to monitor the Department of Homeland Security and Department of State Web sites for threat warnings and other advisories.

Hohenfels Briefs

Warrior Way speed limit reduced during set hours

Effective immediately, the speed limit on Warrior Way will be permanently reduced from 50 kph to 30 kph between the hours of 6 and 8 a.m.

Monday – Wednesday and on Fridays to make running PT less hazardous.

The speed limit signs will change to 30 kph at 6 a.m. and back to 50 kph at 8 a.m.

New ATM at Commissary

The long awaited Service Credit Union ATM has arrived at the Commissary and is up and running for your convenience.

The machine is located in the Cart Return room to the left of the main entrance. The ATM is available during the commissary hours of operation (Tuesday through Friday 10a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.).

The ATM hours will expand in the future.

Sign up for middle school visit to Poland Sept. 1-4

If you are entering the 7th or 8th grade and want an opportunity to serve, Club Beyond has just what you are looking for. Over Labor Day weekend (Sept. 1-4), Club Beyond Hohenfels will take the first 20 middle school youth who sign up to Lwówek Slaski, Poland. Call DSN 466-4793, CIV 015114943311, or e-mail christopher.s.howard@us.army.mil to reserve a spot.

Women’s Equality program set Friday at DFAC

The EO/EEO offices would like to welcome everyone to come to the Hohenfels Community Celebration of Women’s Equality Day.

The event will be held at the USAG DFAC Friday from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Meals will be priced at regular DFAC rates. Winners of the Women’s Equality Day Essay Contest will be announced at the luncheon. Guest Speaker: Command Sgt. Maj. Mary Edwards, HHC 2/159th Aviation Regiment.

School start dates vary

High school students, grades 9 -12, will begin school on Monday. (**Middle school students grades 7-8, do not attend Monday**)

Middle school students will start school Tuesday. (**High school students do not attend Tuesday**)

School resumes for **ALL** students Aug. 30. Questions may be directed to the high school office at DSN 466-3162 or CIV 09472-83-3162.

Employment with AAFES

AAFES is seeking employees for the following positions:

Laborer: Receives merchandise from the stockroom and replenishes merchandise on the sales floor. Cleans fixtures and removes empty boxes. Performs a variety of manual tasks involving moderately heavy physical effort. Works inside and outside a facility. Pay Range: LN: 805.31 - 1549.38 US: 7.56 - 8.82

Senior Store Associate: Completes price changes, assists customers by providing product information. Takes special orders, rain checks, and catalog orders. Operates cash register and other sales related equipment. Verifies and accepts cash, credit cards and checks. Sells a complete line of specialized merchandise. Pay Range: LN: 1557.44 - 2173.96 US: 7.59 - 13.18

Shift Supervisor: Responsible for daily operation of a store. Receives merchandise and equipment, etc. Insures compliance with regulation and policies. Responsible for controlling expenses and accountability. Responsible to train new employee’s. Pay Range: LN: 1869.17 - 2584.21 US: 8.39 - 16.77

Call Lara Clagett (DSN 466-4088) for assistance with applying and submitting a resume.

Late Bus program cancelled through Sept. 29

The experiment with the “last Friday of the month” late shuttle bus to all off post housing areas from the PX/Theater was unsuccessful due to a lack of riders.

The service has been cancelled and will open again Sept. 29. If we fail to get any community support after Sept. 29, the program will be permanently cancelled.

Hohenfels PWOC Annual Fall Kick-Off set Sept. 6

Join us for the Protestant Women of the Chapel’s Annual Fall Kick-Off for food, fun, and fellowship Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. at the Nainhof Chapel. Free child care for ages 6 weeks to 5 years. E-mail Jean.Adams@gvmejesus@yahoo.com.



Worship Services



Vilseck

DSN 476-1570

Catholic Congregation
09:00Sunday Reconciliation Main Post Chapel
10:20-10:45 A.M. - Sunday Morning
09:15-10:15 A.M. - CCD
09:00-10:15 A.M. - RCIA
11:00-12:00 A.M. - Sunday Mass

Protestant Congregation
09:00-10:00 A.M. - Sunday Service
10:00-10:30 A.M. - Fellowship
10:30-11:30 A.M. - Sunday School

Lutheran Congregation
09:00 A.M

Episcopal Congregation
10:30 A.M. Sunday Morning

Hohenfels

DSN 466-1570

Catholic Congregation
09:00Sunday Mass Main Post Chapel,
10:30 Catholic Religious Education after mass, Hilltop Chapel Center

All Nations Church of God
Noon Sunday School Hilltop Chapel
13:30 Sunday Worship Nainhof Chapel,

Church of God in Christ (COGIC)
11:00 Intercessory Prayer Main Chapel
11:30 Sunday Worship Main Chapel,
12:30 Children’s Church Main Chapel
14:00 Sunday School Main Chapel

General Protestant
09:30 Sunday School Hilltop Chapel
11:00 Sunday Worship Nainhof Chapel

Grafenwoehr

DSN 475-1570

Catholic Congregation Confession - In the BSC

08:15-08:45 A.M. - Sunday Mornings
9:00 A.M. - Sunday Mass1
0:30 A.M. - CCD

Protestant Congregation
10:30 A.M. - Sunday Mornings
9:00 A.M. - Sunday School

There are also many off-post worship facilities.

Contact your local chapel for more information.

Famous Germans make their mark in history

by MARTINA BIAS
Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

Adolf Hitler tops the list of famous Germans for many people. Celebrity athletes like tennis-greats Steffi Graf and Boris Becker, or Formula One champion Michael Schumacher, also come easily to mind. While the most famous, and infamous, Germans are known the world over, there are many more who are not as renowned but have made significant contributions to their country and the world.

■ The religious masses are familiar with the early German reformist **Martin Luther** (1483-1546). The American Christian denomination Lutheran derives its name from this religious leader who launched the Protestant Reformation by nailing his “Ninety-Five Theses” to the church door in Wittenberg. This “heretical” act challenging the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church ultimately led to a large exodus of Europeans from the Church. His ideas sparked a theological debate that would result in the Reformation and the birth of the Lutheran, Reformed, and Anabaptist traditions within Christianity. Luther also had an impact on standardizing the German language through his translation of the Bible into German.

■ Politicians are often known beyond their countries’ borders. Many Americans may recognize that **Angela Merkel** is the current and first female German chancellor. The name **Helmut Kohl** may also ring a bell with many Americans due to his role in the reunification of Germany and the birth of the European Union.

Another important chancellor was **Konrad Adenauer** (1876-1967). He became the first chancellor (1949-63) of the new Federal Republic of Germany and helped lead West Germany to postwar recovery and prosperity. Adenauer held the record for his term in office until it was broken by Helmut Kohl. Bonn was chosen as West Germany’s “provisional” capital, in part because it was Adenauer’s hometown. “A thick skin is a gift from God” is one of Adenauer’s famed quotes. Unbeknownst to many Americans, U.S. statesman and diplomat **Henry Kissinger** was born in Fürth, Germany, in 1923. Kissinger came to the U.S. at the age of 15. After graduating from Harvard, he went on to become President Nixon’s Secretary of State in 1973. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize that same year for his Vietnam War negotiations.

■ Two noteworthy contributors to the medical community were Germany’s **Alois Alzheimer** (1864-1915) and **Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen** (1845-1923). Alzheimer was a German neuropathologist

who in 1906 identified the disease named for him. He was born in 1864 in Markbreit, Germany. Excelling in science at school, he later studied medicine in Berlin, Tübingen, and Würzburg.

The name **Röntgen** (1845-1923) might not tell you much, but the German word for X-ray is **Röntgen**, named for the physicist who discovered the groundbreaking technology. He was born on March 27, 1845, at Lennep in the Lower Rhine province of Germany. Röntgen was awarded the very first Nobel Prize for physics in 1901.

And who would have thought that the father of the temperature scale used in the United States was a German-born physicist? **Gabriel Daniel Fahrenheit** (1686-1736) gave us the alcohol thermometer in 1709, the mercury thermometer in 1714, and the temperature scale that bears his name in 1724.

Although born in Danzig, he lived most of his life in England and the Netherlands. This could explain why his home country does not use his temperature scale, but that of Swedish astronomer Anders Celsius.

■ Another significant contribution to the world of physics was made by **Heinrich Rudolf Hertz** (1857-1894). Hertz pioneered research related to electricity and electromagnetic waves, which were first known as Hertzian waves.

His name also became the term used for radio and electrical frequencies: hertz (Hz), as in kilohertz (KHz) or megahertz (MHz). The hertz designation has been an official part of the international metric system since 1933. Before Hertz gained professorships in Karlsruhe and Bonn, he studied under the famous scientist Hermann von Helmholtz in Bonn, and it was Helmholtz who encouraged Hertz to attempt to win the science prize that led to some of Hertz’s most important discoveries.

From 1885 to 1889 Hertz became the first person to broadcast and receive radio waves, and to establish the fact that light was a form of electromagnetic radiation. Hertz may have gone on to make many more scientific contributions, but he died extremely young—less than a month before his 37th birthday.

■ And who could forget the world renowned physicist **Albert Einstein** (1879-1955). He published his theory of relativity in 1905. Born in Ulm, Germany, Einstein later attended university in Zurich, Switzerland, where he received his Ph.D. In 1916, while a professor at the University of Berlin, he published his general theory of relativity, a significant expansion of his earlier work. He received the 1921 Nobel Prize in physics. In 1933 Einstein moved to Princeton, N.J., where he lived for the remainder of his life. His letter to President Roosevelt helped start the Manhattan Project and the U.S. development of the atomic bomb. Einstein became a U.S. citizen in 1940.

■ The automotive world is grateful to German natives **Karl Benz** (1844-1929) and **Gottfried Daimler** (1834-1900). They independently invented the first practical internal-combustion powered automobile (Benz in 1885 and Daimler in 1886), though they never met one another. The firms bearing their names merged in 1926 to form Daimler-Benz, today Germany’s largest industrial concern. Benz, born in Karlsruhe, invented the differential drive and other automotive technology, including two types of internal-combustion engines and electrical ignition.

■ Aviators continue to admire **Otto Lilienthal** (1848-1896), the aviation pioneer who invented the first practical glider in 1877. Lilienthal demonstrated the advantages of curved surfaces for wings, and his designs were studied by America’s Wright brothers prior to their first motorized flight in 1903. Beginning in 1891, Lilienthal made some 2,500 successful glider flights, most from an artificial hill near Lichterfelde, before he was killed in an 1896 crash in the Stollrier mountains.

He published *Der Vogelflug als Grundlage der Fliegekunst* (Bird Flight as the Basis of Aviation) in 1889.

■ The internal space community lauds **Wernher von Braun** (1912-1977). Born in East Germany’s Wirsitz (now Poland), he worked at Peenemünde developing the V2 rockets that struck at Britain in 1944-45. One of the first true rocket scientists, he and about 120 German scientists were brought to the U.S. to work on rocket systems. The U.S. space program was greatly hastened by their work, culminating in the Saturn V rocket that sent Americans to the moon during the 1969 Apollo mission.

At the time, von Braun was the head of NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

■ The world of classical music would be absent of many of its most famous masterpieces without several German composers. Let’s start with **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750). The most well-known in an amazing series of music composed by Bach span the 16th and 17th centuries. Bach’s career began in earnest when he became court organist at Weimar in 1708. By 1714 he was appointed **Konzertmeister** (literally concert master). He went on to compose musical monuments like the “Brandenburg Concertos,” “Pastoral Symphony,” and “The Well-Tempered Clavier.”

Another musical giant and native son is **Ludwig van Beethoven** (1770-1827). Born in Bonn, he moved to Europe’s music capital of Vienna at age 22. Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy” became the official anthem of the European Community in 1986, and the unofficial anthem of German unification in 1989. Beethoven’s grand symphonies, chamber music, and other classical works today belong to the entire world.

Sports enthusiast fans might be familiar with a famous German name in sports shoes. It is that of **Adolf (Adi) Dassler** (1900-1959).

In 1924 Adi and his brother **Rudolph (Rudi) Dassler** founded the shoe company Gebrüder Dassler OHG, known today as Adidas. Born the son of a cobbler in Herzogenaurach, Germany, Adi invented spiked shoes for track and field in 1920. Jesse Owens was wearing a pair of Dassler shoes when he won the gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The brothers split in 1948 when Rudi founded Puma (one of Adidas’ biggest competitors in Europe), and Adi renamed his firm by combining elements of his name. In the 1970s, Adidas was the No. 1 athletic shoe brand in the U.S. Today it maintains about eight percent of the sports shoe market.

■ Hollywood is also home to famous Germans. From the earliest days of film production, a fair number of German actors, directors, set designers, and composers crossed the Atlantic to make their fortunes in the Golden State. Hollywood saw an especially large influx of talent from Germany in the early 1930s. Some of them, including **Marlene Dietrich**, **Bertolt Brecht**, and **Kurt Weill**, left Germany by choice when the Nazis came into power. Many Jewish actors, actresses,

directors and producers, however, fled the country and Nazi persecution. These include the founders of American film dynasties such as Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Paramount, Twentieth Century-Fox, Universal, and Warner Brothers. After World War II, Germans flocked to Hollywood mostly for commercial reasons.

In the 1980s and 1990s, German directors **Wim Wenders** (*City of Angels*, *The Buena Vista Social Club*, *The Million Dollar Hotel*, *Paris, Texas*), **Roland Emmerich** (*Independence Day*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, *Godzilla*), and **Wolfgang Petersen** (*In the Line of Fire*, *Air Force One*, *Das Boot*) made a name for themselves in the world’s No. 1 movie playground.

■ Lastly, it is interesting to note that the creator of the U.S. mascots for the Democratic and Republican parties and the American image of Santa Claus was Germany’s **Thomas Nast** (1840-1902). Born in Landau, Germany, Nast later went to America to fulfill his calling as a cartoon creator.

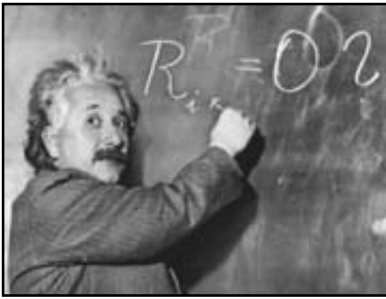
Have you ever wondered why Germans do certain things? I welcome your questions and comments. E-mail me at martina.bias@us.army.mil, and I may be able to address your suggestions in a future column.



Luther



Merkel



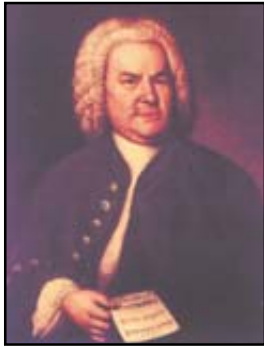
Einstein



Lilienthal



Dietrich



Bach

Beloved fairytale inspires country’s classic cake

by MARTINA BIAS
Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

If you have found yourself staring at a display case outside of a German bakery and can’t decide which treat to try, you’re not alone.

And if you’ve been torn between the basic Kuchen, a fruit or creamy cheesecake, or torte, you’re in luck today!

I am going to share with you a classic German cake - Schneewittchen-Kuchen (literally: Snow White Cake) It combines some of my (and hopefully your) favorite cakes.

The bottom layer of this cake is a moist marble cake, enhanced with sweet summer cherries. This is topped off with a fluffy cheese and cream layer and finally a fruity red glaze.

This delicious cake got its name from a passage of one of the world’s most beloved fairytales.

Snow White: “The child with skin as white as snow (cheese and cream layer), lips as red as blood (cherries and glaze) and hair as black as a raven’s wing (chocolate cake layer).”

To avoid confusion, there is another classic

German cake that is very similar to Schneewittchen-Kuchen. It is called Donauwellen (literally: Danube waves).

It starts with the same marble cake and cherries, but it is topped with a rich butter cream (refer to the Frankfurter Kranz recipe published in the June 14 issue of the Bavarian News) and finished with a layer of melted chocolate. A wave pattern is created using a fork and the chocolate is allowed to harden.

Whichever version you prefer, both are sure to satisfy your sweet tooth. Guten Appetit!

Schneewittchen-Kuchen
2 cans cherries
1 stick butter or margarine, softened
1 ¼ cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
3 eggs
1 ½ cups flour
2 tsp. baking powder
3 - 4 Tbs. milk
1 Tbs. baking cocoa or (Germans may use)
2 Tbs. Nutella
8 oz. cottage cheese or 250 grams Quark
½ cup confectionary sugar

1 pint whipping cream
2 packages red cake glaze (in Germany called Tortenguß)

Drain cherries, reserving the liquid. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Cream butter or margarine and sugar. Add the next five ingredients and mix well.

Spread half of the batter into the bottom of a greased Springform pan. Add baking cocoa or Nutella to remaining batter and mix well.

Spread chocolate batter over light colored batter in the Springform pan and swirl lightly, if marble effect is desired. Top with cherries.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until cake tests done. Cool completely on a wire rack. Remove cake from pan.

Process cottage cheese and confectionary sugar in a food processor until creamy and smooth. If using Quark, simply mix with confectionary sugar.

Beat whipping cream until stiff. Gently fold whipped cream into cottage cheese (or Quark) mixture.

Spread over cooled cake. Layer can be about one-inch thick or more. Chill.

Add water to reserved cherry liquid until it

measures two cups. Prepare cake glaze according to directions using the cherry water as liquid.

Cool until just warm but not completely set, stirring occasionally. Spread over creamy cheese layer and down the sides.

Refrigerate until glaze has set. Store cake (covered) in refrigerator.

Yield: 12 - 16 servings

Do you have a favorite German dish you would like to recreate at home? E-mail me at martina.bias@us.army.mil.



File photo

Schneewittchen-Kuchen (Snow White Cake) is a tasty combination of cakes.

Army Wrestling

Two Soldiers qualify for 2006 Worlds

Army athletes go for the gold next month in China

Story and photos by TIM HIPPS

Army News Service

Two Soldiers in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program have qualified for the 2006 World Wrestling Championships.

Sgt. Tina George recently joined WCAP teammate Staff Sgt. Dremiel Byers on Team USA scheduled to compete Sept. 26 through Oct. 1 at the World Wrestling Championships in Guangzhou, China. Both are stationed at Fort Carson, Colo.

Silver medalist

A two-time world silver medalist in the women's 121-pound freestyle division, George made her seventh U.S. world team June 30 by defeating reigning national champion Sharon Jacobson of El Cajon, Calif., in the Women's World Team Trials for USA Wrestling at Colorado Springs (Colo.) Christian School.

George won the first match against Gator Wrestling Club's Jacobson by scores of 1-1, 4-6, 5-3 and prevailed 6-4, 7-1 in the second round of their best-of-three championship series.

"It showcased the level of training that I've been in," said George, 27, who regularly wrestles against men in the Army World Class Athlete Program. "It was a very physical match. At the end of the second match, she had me in a move that could have been a pinning combination, but I decided then that I wasn't getting pinned and I wasn't going to go to three matches."

George hopes to next atone for setbacks at the hands of Japan's Saori Yoshida, a three-time world champion who defeated her in the finals of the 2003 World Championships at New York's Madison Square Garden and at the 2002 World Championships in Halkida, Greece.

"The woman to beat is Yoshida, and I think my chances this year are higher than any other year," George said. "I'm really looking forward to competing against her and showing her what I've learned. I don't feel the normal stress of year-round competition because I had quite a bit of time off. I'm not feeling the typical burnout. I think it's going to be a great year for me."

'02 World Champ

Byers, the 2002 world champion in the Greco-Roman 264.5-pound division, earned his third berth in the World Championships at the men's World Team Trials for USA Wrestling on May 27 in Sioux City, Iowa.

"I want to be more aggressive on my feet, for sure, and just really avoid making any of those mental mistakes that I did last year," said Byers, who lost in the second round of the 2005 World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, to eventual fifth-place finisher Georgiv Tsursumia of Kazakhstan. "It's kind of a redemption thing at this point—focus on getting into the body on these guys and getting back to the guy who won the world in 2002."

Byers hopes to get another

opportunity to wrestle reigning world champion Mijail Lopez of Cuba, who defeated him in the heavyweight finale of the 2006 Pan American Championships on June 3 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Mind gone south

"In the Pan Am Championships, the first period was all of what it was supposed to have been and then my mind went south," Byers said of his most recent showdown with Lopez. "He picked it up and then it wasn't even a fight anymore, so I need to get that back. That's been haunting me and bothering me so I've got to fix that."

Although Byers' ultimate goal is to win an Olympic gold medal as promised to his deceased grandfather, he contends that the world championships is the toughest test in amateur wrestling.

Harder than Olympics

"You're going to get a good showing from everybody there because everybody is putting their best out," Byers said. "In the rest of the world, that's more important than the Olympics. That's just the way it is. I know now that it's harder to win a world championship than an Olympic medal. Only 20 (athletes in each weight class) compete in the Olympics and everyone is at the World Championships."

"I just want to be on that podium. I want to get our flag raised and our song played. That's most important right now."



Vilseck catcher Ray Cropps keeps a watchful eye as Kitzingen's Eric Smith hits the ball.

Grafenwoehr softball teams step closer to shot at championship win

Story and photo by KATHYJORDAN

Contributing writer

The Grafenwoehr community level ladies softball team defeated Wuerzburg in two consecutive games July 12 to clinch third place for the second year in a row.

The Grafenwoehr ladies squeaked by in the first game 16-15, and dominated in the second game with a score of 11-8.

The top two teams will play in the Final Four Softball Championships tomorrow through Sunday at the Grafenwoehr Sports Complex.

Last year the Grafenwoehr ladies placed third overall and went on to finish third in the Army Europe Community Level Softball Championship.

The Grafenwoehr men's team played Aug. 12, winning the first of two games against Wuerzburg, 13-17. Wuerzburg squeaked by the Grafenwoehr men, 15-14, during the second game.

The split forced a tiebreaker game that will be played between Schweinfurt and Grafenwoehr to determine who will take fourth place and play in the tournament.

Sept. 20-23 clinic preps garrison officials to hold own wrestling clinics

IMA-E press release

Former Air Force grappler and international wrestling official Jeff Pellaton, has been selected to present the 2006 Freestyle & Greco-Roman Wrestling Officials Clinic at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Training and Development Center, Sept. 20-23 in Schwetzingen, Germany.

The annual clinics prepare garrison officials to conduct clinics at their garrison and other military locations.

They may then qualify to officiate at the IMA-EURO Championships conducted later in the year.

Pellaton has wrestled, coached, and officiated in the Far East, Europe, and in the United States.

The California native is a former Air Force service member and U.S. Forces-Europe champion.

Pellaton coached High School wrestling at Kubasaki High School in Okinawa, Japan, from 1986 – 2002, claiming the Far East championship nine times and was selected as the Far East Coach of the Year three times.

He officiated the cadet and junior national championships from 2003-2005 and is currently the head official and clinician for wrestling in U.S. Army Europe.

During the training, clinic attendees will learn current rules, proper signaling, points of emphasis, rule changes, and mat procedures.

The clinic will culminate with a written test and a practical examination where students must successfully officiate during the 2006 IMA-E MWR Wrestling Invitational Tournament, Sept. 23 in Heidelberg, Germany.



Staff Sgt. Dremiel Byers (left), the 2002 Greco-Roman heavyweight world champion, defeats Air Force 1st Lt. David Hunter in the 120-kilogram/264.5-pound Greco-Roman division of the 2005 Armed Forces Wrestling Championships at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. Byers is scheduled to compete Sept. 26 - Oct. 1 at the World Wrestling Championships in Guangzhou, China.



Then Pfc. Tina George after winning the 121-pound freestyle division in the 2003 Pan American Games. She is stationed at Fort Carson, Colo.

Public wants sports editor to write positive stories, attaboy the players

I'm pleased to know that the words I am typing this very second are made of magic ink. It's my understanding from the general public that if I write something "positive" in this space, miracles will ensue on the fields and courts of the local sports community I write about.

And to think, my mother said I wouldn't amount to anything.

Watch out, Harry Potter, you may have a magic wand, but I have a magic keyboard.

I'll bet Mel Gibson would pay a mint to have my keyboard at this point. I'll bet he'd have a chance to get into heaven if he did.

If Terrell Owens or Barry Bonds had my keyboard right now, they might have the reputations of Pope John Paul II and Gandhi, respectively.

Unfortunately, Braveheart, T.O., and B.B. are not so fortunate.

But I am.

So, maybe I should turn away from the Dark Side and join Luke and Obi Wan in the fight for what is good and pure.

Yes, cheerleading.

Forget the journalistic measure of impartiality that is the cornerstone of the Fourth Estate, right? Who needs it?

Forget the fact that every team in the state and country is working just as hard as the next.

Let's just give them all medals for trying.

Let's do away with keeping score and state championships.

While we're at it, let's do away with grades in school. Isn't that just a judgment or opinion on a kid's intellect, and whether he or she is "winning" or "losing" in the classroom?

That would be the politically correct thing to do, wouldn't it?

Or, maybe we journalists should just powder-puff everything, so

when a team or an individual authentically does something "positive" it won't be worth the paper it's written on. But, hey, everyone will be happy, right?

Really, let's just all stick our heads in the sand and pretend everything is coming up roses.

But, if we do that, wouldn't that be the biggest injustice of all?

What would we be teaching our kids?

It sure wouldn't be the harsh realities they need to embrace in the dog-eat-dog, what-have-you-done-for-me-lately world in which we live.

Don't we want our kids to accept their failures, learn from them, and try to improve

themselves regardless if someone says "nice try" or not.

In reality, folks, saying "nice try" doesn't change the score—regardless of what a coach, a mom, a

dad, or local newspaper says.

And regardless of what the new generation is trying to teach in this politically correct world of ours, winning DOES matter.

It IS why we play the game. And it's those games

that prepare our kids for the harsh realities (wins and losses) they will face in life once the safety



SPORTS VIEW

BY WILLIAM WILCZEWSKI

blanket of high school is torn from them; when they go off to college or to the work force.

Don't get me wrong, I would expect a coach, a teacher, a mom, and a dad to attaboy their children.

I just don't understand why anyone would expect a newspaper to do the same.

After all, it's the coach's job to coach, the cheerleader's job to cheer, the parent's job to parent ... and my job—nothing personal—is to be the only impartial voice in the peanut gallery to tell it exactly the way it is.

What do YOU think? E-mail "Ski" at william.wilczewski@knox.army.mil.

William "Ski" Wilczewski is an award-winning sports editor for Fort Knox's *The Turret* newspaper. He has been published in "Chicken Soup for the Sports Lover's Soul" and other publications.

Bavaria hoping to re-use bases

Continued From Page 1

depart the region.

The U.S. Army in Europe began reducing its force of about 62,000 troops spread over 13 main operating locations across Europe to about 24,000 troops concentrated among four joint main operation bases (the Grafenwoehr, Wiesbaden, Kaiserslautern, and Vicenza areas).

Sinner stressed the significant impact the departures will have on some Bavarian communities, noting that Kitzingen alone lost one-third of its population. Sinner, who oversees state representation offices in Berlin with the federal government and in Brussels with the European Union, said the re-use efforts include the possible stationing of a heavy U.S. brigade in Franconia.

A first effort in this direction was made by Sinner's boss, Bavarian Minister President Dr. Edmund Stoiber, during a June office call in Brussels with Marine Gen. James L. Jones, commander of the United States European Command.

Before concluding the press conference, Sinner said he was

pleased that approximately 90 percent of all Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr contracts were with local German firms. Perkins said the overwhelming local support and investments will secure U.S. military presence in the area for decades to come.

Sinner visited USAG G at the invitation of Perkins, who visited the Bavarian State Chancellery in February.

Following the USAG G visit, Sinner and Perkins flew to USAG Hohenfels, where they were greeted by Col. Tom Vandal, commander of the Operations Group, Joint Multinational Readiness Center.

Vandal provided Sinner with an overview of the JMRC, followed by a windshield tour of the Hohenfels' urban combat training village.

Sinner fired simunitions (non-lethal paint and wax bullets) used in exercises at Hohenfels.

He said he was impressed on how quiet the munitions were, and that it gave him a better understanding of the training tactic and equipment that are often the subject of controversy with local politicians.



Photo by Adriane Foss

Bavarian State Minister Eberhard Sinner (seated far left), accompanied by JMTC Commander Brig. Gen. David Perkins, prepares for takeoff Aug. 7. After a tour of Netzaberg, they flew to Hohenfels, where Sinner got hands-on experience with the training area's simunitions.

PX offers price matching, no-tax shopping

Continued From Page 6

more than 20 percent less than comparable retailers.

"All of the tools we employ to position the BX/PX as a price leader are designed to reinforce that AAFES saves military families money every day," said AAFES Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton.

"The tax relief the military community enjoys 365 days a year is an inherent part of the exchange benefit troops have come to depend on."

In addition to this same-day pledge, AAFES also offers a 30-day price guarantee on any item originally purchased from AAFES and subsequently sold at a lower price by AAFES or another local competitor, excluding unauthorized dealers and warehouse clubs.

"While most PX/BXs can't accommodate the millions of school supplies on the market, the Exchange Online Store and Exchange Online Mall help ensure AAFES always has the right products at the right prices," said Eaton.

"Summer, fall, winter or spring, the extensive selection of back-to-school options available is just another example of AAFES' commitment to deliver year-round value and support to every member of the military family," he said.

Beyond 148 "brick and mortar" exchanges scattered throughout the globe, AAFES' 11.5 million authorized customers can choose from an array of affordable, tax-free items through the Exchange Online Store at www.aafes.com.

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a

week, this virtual exchange offers such back-to-school basics as school uniforms, electronics and athletic gear.

Thousands of additional products discounted up to 15 percent are also available at the Exchange Online Mall.

Authorized customers need only to log on to www.aafes.com and go into the "Shop Your Online Mall" section to access more than 4,000 uniform fashions and accessories, 100,000 pairs of footwear, and sports and fitness products, just to name a few.

Vilseck seniors speak at national education conference

by STEVE VOJTECKY

USAG G School liaison officer

Two Vilseck High School Student 2 Student leaders spoke at the annual Military Child Education Coalition Conference in Houston, Texas, July 14.

"I was extremely nervous, but after the applause I was relieved," said VHS senior Cortier Rogers, "because it shows how much they were paying attention."

"Being at the conference was a wonderful experience," added VHS senior Angela Odom. "We were surrounded by a great group of kids with the same enthusiasm about the S2S program as we have."

Frank O'Gara, Department of Defense Education Activity

Educational Communications Officer attended the presentation and said, "The S2S program provides a wonderful vehicle for students to assume a leadership role in helping their peers with the many transition issues that schools face daily."

"No other program is better poised to make a meaningful impact on how well students become adjusted to a new school and community," said O'Gara.

Each school group prepared and staffed a display table at the conference to answer questions about the S2S program.

"The kids at Houston were motivated and enthusiastic and were proud to show off our efforts to welcome students to Vilseck High School," said VHS nurse and S2S

school sponsor Elke Zschaebitz.

On the last day of the conference, the standing room-only audience listened to presentations from S2S students from five stateside schools and from VAHS.

"It gave me great pride to watch our two S2S representatives to the national MCEC convention describe our program to welcome the new students from the 2nd Calvary Regiment to our school," said VHS principal Robert Sennett.

VHS was one of the 14 high schools across the country and from DoDDS to be invited to present at the Houston conference. Angela Odom and Cortier Rogers were the high school leaders representing the 40-plus S2S members of VHS and the Bavaria School District.

"The presentation that Angela and Cortier delivered should really be called S2S Plus because it is linked with the community's efforts to welcome the 2SCR folks to their new home in Bavaria," said Sennett.

"Angela and Cortier not only gave fresh ideas on what and how S2S can function in the transition process but they made new friends from schools surrounding military installations in the U.S. and are bringing back fresh ideas for VHS," he said.

"Motivated students are hard to find, but at the MCEC Conference that is all there was," said Odom. "The program really helps bring out the best in students and the conference was great. You could feel all the positive energy."

Unit vehicles arrive July 28

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really are starting to feel like this is our home."

Although most of the regiment is settled in and around Vilseck and they have received their vehicle and equipment, they won't be heading to the Grafenwoehr training ranges just yet.

"We won't be using the vehicles for much training until October, but (the arrival of the Strykers) sets the conditions for us to be able to start training," said Pendell.

"The bottom line is that we are excited to get (ready for) training and do what Soldiers do, and that I think will be very significant."

"Oh yeah, agreed Larson, "now we can get back to it."

Museum pieces to be housed next month

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should be open by Sept. 15, in time for the unit's official welcome ceremony. In addition to the museum, a 2SCR monument will be constructed in Memorial Park to replace the monument erected by the 1st Brigade, 37th Armor Regiment, stationed in Frieberg.

"We are still working on the design but the plan is to build another memorial here," he said. "This is all part of us bringing our heritage to Vilseck and making it our home."

The memorial will be flanked by two of the museum vehicles (M24 "Chaffee" Light Tank and an M8 Greyhound), which are already in place. The remaining vehicles will become static displays and placed in various locations around the installation.

"You will see the proud history of our regiment," said Pendell, "and you will see a lot of light vehicles displayed because they represent the kind of vehicle our Stryker is—light, agile, able to fight in close urban terrain."

Pink cards good for PX, commissary shopping

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The Military Postal System also provides limited services to retirees or surviving spouses of retirees living in Germany. Retirees and widows of retirees can apply to use the MPS at the nearest Army Post Office and receive mail through "Box R" (general delivery).

For more information, visit www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/custom4.htm or call a military customs field office (Vilseck DSN: 476-2105 CIV 09662-83-2105 Fax: DSN: 476-2746 CIV 09662-83-2746 or on the Web at <http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm>).



British-style bargains

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr community members gathered Aug. 12 in the Grafenwoehr Library parking lot for a British-style flea market known as a car boot sale. After an early morning rain shower, participants displayed and sold their wares to the waves of small crowds.

Photo by Sue Bluhm